(a) whether adequate attention is being paid, while designing traffic management programmes, towards traffic engineering, accident investigation, driver training, assessment and traffic enforcement, etc. so that free flow of traffic with nearly accident-free rate could be achieved;

(b) if so, whether the Seminar organized in Delhi in February, 2008 and attended by high-profile Institute of Road Traffic Education and Commission of United Nations Global Road Safety, gave specific suggestions towards road safety; and

(c) whether these are being implemented in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEO S. KHANDELA): (a) The State Governments are primarily responsible for designing traffic management programmes, towards traffic engineering, accident investigation, driver training assessment and traffic enforcement. It is expected from the States to take appropriate steps on each of these aspects.

(b) The Institute of Road Traffic Education & the Commission for Global Road Safety organized a one day Conference 'Road Safety Investments in India' in February 2008 in New Delhi. The Conference made specific recommendations to improve the road safety, some of which are: political prioritization of road safety in India, implementation of a single road safety administration, investment of 10% of the road construction & maintenance budget for road safety management, creation of road safety awareness at all levels, development of tools and systems for driver training and stricter licensing process, updation of road design & traffic engineering standards, development of new standards and implementation of scientific traffic management and Road Safety Audits (RSAs).

(c) Recommendations made by the Conference can be broadly classified into two aspects i.e. policy and enforcement. As regards policy issues, the Government has taken necessary steps to finalize policy directives for improving road safety. Since the states are responsible for enforcement issues, they have been urged to take appropriate measures for enforcement of Road safety provisions from time to time.

Link roads projects between Delhi and Haryana

1302. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to act as per announcement to complete the process of three new link roads projects between Delhi and Haryana to increase connectivity; and

(b) if so, what steps Government is taking to complete the process without any further delay; and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible only for development and maintenance of National Highways and there is no proposal at present to provide any new National Highway

connectivity between Delhi and Haryana. However Government of Haryana is planning new link roads between Delhi and Haryana to improve connectivity.

Construction and upgradation of roads

1303. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to spend about 60 thousand crore to construct and upgrade about 40 thousand kilometer of roads in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the highway projects constructed under various National Highway Development Programme phases have seen delays due to highway development agencies inability to decide the mode of contract, toll in the first instance;

(d) if so, whether Government has prepared the blueprint of such projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and how Government propose to complete such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). The Government has taken up several projects for improvement/development of National Highways including construction of expressways under the various schemes such as National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East region (SARDP-NE), etc. The total length of NHs envisaged for improvement under the various phases of NHDP is about 47,054 km. About 5,104 km length of NHs and 4,656 km length of state roads are envisaged for improvement under SARDP-NE. These projects are targeted for completion in phases by 2015-16. Apart from this, this Ministry also provides funds to the States/Union Territories for development and maintenance of State Roads, other than rural roads, as per the provisions of the Central Road Fund (CRF) Act, 2000. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) envisages budgetary support of Rs 72,530 crore for Central Sector roads. In addition, the sector is expected to generate Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) amounting to Rs 34,829 crore and private sector investment of Rs 86,792 crore during this period.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, some of the projects have been delayed due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities, clearances for Railway-Over-Bridges (RGBs), poor performance of contractors, law & order problems in some States, etc.

The progress of projects is closely monitored by Project Implementation Units of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), assisted by Supervision/Independent Consultants, in order to